

**Amendment and Response**

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Serial No.: 09/446,323

Confirmation No.: 2155

Filed: March 20, 2000

For: DEVICE FOR TAKING AND EXAMINING SAMPLES

1 wherein the sample-taking means (10) and the testing means (40) are introducible into the housing (50) and the testing means (40) is operable to be displaced after having been introduced into the housing (50).

21. (AMENDED) A method for taking and examining samples, comprising:  
collecting a sample in a sample-taking means;  
coupling the sample-taking means to a first end of a housing, the housing having a cartridge located therein;  
displacing the cartridge relative to the housing;  
combining the sample and contents of the cartridge to form a sample mixture;  
providing a testing means at a second end of the housing; and  
displacing the testing means relative to the housing, whereby the testing means contacts the sample mixture.

24. (NEW) A device for taking and examining samples, comprising:  
a housing having a first end, a second end, and a passageway extending between the first end and the second end;  
a cartridge operable to be received in the first end of the housing, wherein the cartridge, during operation of the device, is displaceable along a portion the passageway of the housing;  
a sample-taking means operable to be at least partially received in the first end of the housing, wherein a sample introduced by the sample-taking means forms a sample mixture with contents of the cartridge; and  
a testing member operable to be received in the second end of the housing, wherein the testing member is displaceable along the passageway of the housing such that the testing member can be brought in contact with the sample mixture.

25. (NEW) The device of claim 24, wherein the testing member comprises an elongate member comprising a test strip.

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26. (NEW) The device of claim 25, wherein the elongate member is cylindrical in shape.

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